

יש צדיקים גנוזים, והם יודעים פנים בתורה

Hidden Tzaddikim and Lost Books

THE TEACHING

There are hidden tzaddikim (צדיקים גנוזים) who know the face of the Torah (פנים בתורה), its inner meaning, yet must conceal their teaching. The Rebbe himself sometimes does not say such a teaching, or does not write it, or writes it and then burns it. And many holy books of the Tannaim and Amoraim are lost.

Yet this is a kindness (טובה) to the world. A holy book carries the spirit of Mashiach, which can become a spirit of jealousy (רוח קנאה) and disturb the peace of a holy couple. When holy books are lost, that spirit departs, and in return the books of heresy (ספרי מינין) are uprooted, so we can come close to Hashem.

MAIN POINTS

- Books of heresy, if they spread, would make it impossible to come close to Hashem. Yeravam did not lead all Israel after golden calves with simple foolishness; surely deep heresy (אפיקורסות) was behind it.
- A book is the Name of Hashem (שם ה'): "מגדל עז שם ה'" (משלי יח:), "the Name of Hashem is a tower of strength." In gematria ספר equals שם. A holy book is "שמי שנכתב בקדשה", "My Name written in holiness."
- Each person has a spark of Mashiach (בחינת משיח), and guards it above all by guarding against immorality (נאור), even its scent. Mashiach is the nose: "רוח אפינו משיח ה'" (איכה ד:), "the breath of our nostrils, the anointed of Hashem"; and "לא תהנה אף" is read "לא תנאף".
- The spirit of Mashiach rests on the faces of the Torah, the holy books: "ורוח אלקים מרחפת על פני המים" (בראשית א:ב), "the spirit of Elokim hovered over the face of the waters", and water is Torah.
- That spirit is so pure that it is jealous even over seclusion alone, as in the law of the sotah. Sometimes it brings a get, which is why a get is called "ספר כריתות" (דברים כד:א), "a book of separation."
- A couple can be so holy that the unification above depends on them: "זכו - שכינה שרויה ביניהם", "when worthy, the Shechinah dwells between them." Jealousy comes even to them, for love: "כי עזה כמות אהבה, קשה כשואל קנאה" (שיר השירים ח:ו), "love is strong as death, jealousy hard as the grave." But it can still disturb their peace.
- So the books are hidden and lost. The Torah said "שמי שנכתב בקדשה ימחה" to make peace between husband and wife; then a kal vachomer is made above: how much more must the books of heresy, which sow hatred in Israel, be erased and uprooted.

A PRACTICAL TAKEAWAY · OUR OWN REFLECTION

We mourn what is lost, and rightly. But Hashem can turn even a loss into a kindness, making room for peace in our homes and keeping us close to Him.

In the full shiur: 1. Hidden Teachings and Lost Books · 2. The Spirit of Mashiach and Peace in the Home

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